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AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

January 13, 2004

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was created in 1981 as a block grant allocated to States to operate multi-component home energy assistance programs for qualified, low-income households. The legislation stipulates that the distribution of funds should be coordinated with public or non-profit entities, which have experience in assisting low-income individuals, such as the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. In FY 2003, the State of California was allocated approximately \$77 million. During the same period, the four LIHEAP program operators/contractors providing services in Los Angeles County were allocated nearly \$17 million.

Throughout California, LIHEAP funds are administered primarily by Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Although the County's Department of Community and Senior Services (DCSS) is a locally designated 'Community Action Agency', it is precluded from competing for LIHEAP funds. Current statutes, enacted in 1997 (SB 558), have been interpreted by the State Department of Community Services and Development

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

January 13, 2004

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(DCSD) to mean that present LIHEAP providers in Los Angeles County are afforded protection under federal and states laws and that formation of service regions beyond those that were in place in 1995, or those that were in place in Los Angeles County in January 1997, shall occur only with the concurrence of service providers within the proposed regions.

Legislation is needed in order to clarify existing laws to allow DCSS to compete for LIHEAP funds. DCSS through a network of over 100 non-profit agencies of CSBG and Area Agency on Aging program operators/ contractors is in a better strategic position to provide LIHEAP services to qualified low-income families and the elderly population throughout the county.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD instruct our advocates in Sacramento to assist in seeking approval of legislative proposals that would enable Los Angeles County to compete directly for federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds.

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YBB:JO:jt3(LIHEA)



County of Los Angeles
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

January 8, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

MOTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO ENABLE LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO COMPETE FOR LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS (ITEM NO. 2, AGENDA OF JANUARY 13, 2004)

Item No. 2 on the January 13, 2004 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Burke to assist in seeking approval of legislative proposals that would enable Los Angeles County to compete directly for Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. LIHEAP was established in 1981 to provide services to low income people needing energy assistance.

The Department of Community and Senior Services (DCSS) indicates that Federal legislation, which created and reauthorized LIHEAP, encouraged awarding these funds to agencies that administer Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds and have administered energy programs in the past. DCSS, as the County's designated Community Action Agency (CAA), is responsible for administration of CSBG funds and previously administered LIHEAP funds within the County. However, the State Department of Community Services and Development, which administers the LIHEAP program in California, interprets existing law enacted in 1997 to preclude DCSS, and other CAAs within the County, from competing for LIHEAP funds.

Three other CAAs in Los Angeles County are also seeking to compete for LIHEAP funds: the Community Development Department of the City of Los Angeles, the Long Beach Community Action Partnership, and the Center for Community and Family Services, which serves the Pasadena/Foothill area. DCSS indicates that the City of Los Angeles intends to sponsor legislation to amend existing law for this purpose.

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Currently, four community organizations receive, on a non-competitive basis, approximately \$16.7 million in LIHEAP funds to administer the program throughout Los Angeles County. DCSS indicates that these organizations are not subject to the public input and scrutiny required of CAAs, resulting in some areas of the County being underserved.

County CAAs have the capacity through the existing CSBG network to provide outreach and consumer education to our low-income, vulnerable and elderly population in the underserved areas. **Therefore, DCSS recommends that the County support legislation to enable Los Angeles County Community Action Agencies to compete directly for Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds, and we concur.** This action is consistent with existing County legislative policy to support proposals that would increase access to funding under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in Los Angeles County.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:MS:hg/n

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Community and Senior Services